

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Confirmation No.: 6579

Weidong ZHU, Chun-Nam WONG,

Group Art Unit:

2655

Guangyao XU, Nengan ZHENG and Benjamin Haynes EMORY

Serial No.:

10/849,571

Examiner:

Filed:

May 20, 2004

Customer No.:

34610

For:

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETECTING STRUCTURAL DAMAGE

REPLY TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In reply to the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed on March 20, 2006 Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-10, 15-31 and 36-46) with traverse for further prosecution on the merits.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of each of the designated inventions is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of each of the designated inventions would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining designated inventions. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it states that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or

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independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

> Respectfully submitted, FLESHNER & KIM, LLP

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Date: MARCH 27, 2006

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